



(b) incubating the sample with the solid phase and a test reagent that provides a detectable indication of the presence or/and amount of the analyte, such that any analyte in the sample binds to the reactant bound to the solid phase and

(c) detecting the presence or/and the amount of the analyte in the sample with the detectable indication.

REMARKS

Claim 14 is pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 14 is amended. No new matter is contained in the amendments.

The Patent Office paper asserts that the Amendment filed on November 28, 2001 is not fully responsive to the August 28, 2001 Office Action. In particular, the paper asserts that the following issues have not been addressed:

- a) the rejections of paragraphs 4c and 4d of the Office Action; and
- b) the definition of the term "reactant" as used in "solid phase reactant".

Regarding "4c", Applicants have amended claim 14 to further define that the test reagent provides an indication of the presence or/and amount of the analyte. Applicants also respectfully note that, as explained in the November 28, 2001 Amendment, test reagents that can be used in the claimed invention are known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding "4d", Applicants have further amended claim 14, to define a positive step of the analyte binding to its specific partner, and to define that the test reagent

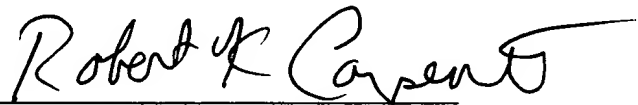
provides a detectable indication, and the detectable indication is detected to indicate the presence or/and amount of analyte in the sample.

Regarding the terminology "solid phase reactant", Applicants believe that the terminology is clearly defined on page 4, lines 1-9 of the specification and is also commonly used and understood in the diagnostics field. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants additionally amend the terminology to define the "reactant" such that it --interacts with the analyte--.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the issues raised in the February 19, 2002 Patent Office paper are obviated. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Claim 14 Marked-Up To Show Changes

Claim 14 Marked-Up To Show Changes

14. (Twice Amended) Method for the detection of an analyte in a sample, comprising the steps:

(a) preparing a solid phase on which a conjugate of a poly(C₂-C₃)-alkylene oxide and an analyte-specific [solid phase] reactant that interacts with the analyte has been applied such that the conjugate is immobilized,

(b) incubating the sample with the solid phase and a test reagent that provides a detectable indication of the presence or/and amount of the analyte, such that any analyte in the sample binds to the reactant bound to the solid phase and

(c) detecting the presence or/and the amount of the analyte in the sample with the detectable indication.